

REMARKS

The Office rejects claims 8, 10, 11, 17, and 20, objects to claim 9, and allows claims 1-7, 12-16, 18, 19, and 21. Applicant amends claim 9 and cancels claims 8, 10, 11, 17, and 20. Claims 1-7, 9, 12-16, 18, 19, and 21 (6 independent claims and 16 total claims) remain pending in the application.

The Office indicates that claims 1-7, 12-16, 18, 19, and 21 are allowed and that claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 9 has been amended as such.

Support for the various amendments may be found in the originally filed specification, claims, and figures. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103 REJECTIONS

The Examiner rejects claims 8, 10, 11, 17, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the previously cited references Tanaka (U.S. Patent No. 5,825,926, issued October 20, 1998, assignee is Fujitsu Limited) in view of Katsuyama (U.S. Patent No. 5,625,710, issued April 28, 1997, assignee is Fujitsu Limited).

Applicant cancels claims 8, 10, 11, 17, and 20, so that the rejection of these claims is moot.

CONCLUSION

Thus, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is thus requested. Applicant invites the Office to telephone the undersigned if he or she has any questions whatsoever regarding this Response or the present application in general.

Respectfully submitted,

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